

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/053,697 Confirmation No. : 7835
First Named Inventor : Tetsuya MATSUI
Filed : January 24, 2002
TC/A.U. : 3629
Examiner : Igor N. Borissov

Docket No. : 381HI/50780
Customer No. : 23911

Title : Environmental Performance Improvement Support System
and Environmental Performance Improvement Support
Method



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98

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Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

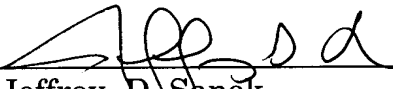
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed without a Certification under 37 CFR §1.97(e) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance (whichever is earlier), and therefore the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$180.00 for the required fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p), any additional fees or credit any overpayment in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Attorney Docket: 381HI/50780).

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

If necessary, the paper should be considered as a petition for consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(2) and that the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(3) should be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381HI/50780).

Respectfully submitted,

December 28, 2004


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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | Complete if Known | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | Application Number | 10/053,697 |
| | | Filing Date | January 24, 2002 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Tetsuya MATSUI |
| | | Art Unit | 3629 |
| | | Examiner Name | Igor N. Borissov |
| Sheet 1 of 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 381HI/50780 | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials ¹ | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | | |
| | | US- 2002/0056638 A1 | | 05-16-2002 | Ohishi et al. | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| Examiner Initials ¹ | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
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